

**THE MINUTES OF THE  
NORFOLK ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD  
JANUARY 23, 2017**

On January 23, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., a meeting of the Norfolk Architectural Review Board was held in the 10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall Building. Those in attendance were:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Gustavson (Chairman), Mr. Lyall, Mr. Gould, Ms. Reynes, Mr. Rutledge, Ms. Austin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Glenn, Ms. Pollard, Mr. Hoffler

**STAFF:**

Mr. Newcomb, Ms. McBride, Ms. Shea, Mr. Chambers

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Gustavson called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll call**

Mr. Newcomb called the roll. (**Quorum present**)

**III. Consent Agenda**

a. Meeting minutes – December 5, 2016

Mr. Rutledge made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Lyall seconded the motion. The Board voted aye.

#### **IV. Certificate of Appropriateness**

##### **West Freemason**

- a. 345 W. Freemason Street – Amend a previously approved COA-Remove brick piers from the landscaping plan

Drawings and photographs were presented and Ms. McBride reviewed the application. In September 2016, the Board approved a COA for fencing and brick piers; however, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources denied the brick piers. The applicant would like to amend the application to eliminate the piers and carriage lights. They propose a change to the fencing due to stability issues.

Ms. Letchworth, the applicant, appeared before the Board. The powder-coated aluminum fence will be painted black and the posts will have a finial on top. The height remains the same.

Mr. Lyall made a motion to approve the amended application as presented. Mr. Rutledge seconded the motion. The Board voted aye.

#### **V. Design Review**

- a. 150 Park Avenue – Harbor Park – Ticket office addition

Drawings and photographs were presented and Ms. McBride reviewed the application. The existing box office is expanding in order to add ticket and will call windows. The expansion will be located on the north side of the stadium where the existing ticket windows are located. The expansion extends out between the two existing structural piers.

Mr. Schnekser, from Tymoff+Moss Architects, appeared before the Board. The infill walls will be composite metal panels on metal stud walls. The front side of the expansion will be clad in prefinished composite metal panels interlocked in a diamond pattern. A metal canopy is proposed above the ticket windows. The flat panels between the windows will be used for signage. Mr. Rutledge stated that his preference was to have a brick base instead of metal panels.

The west elevation (2 will call windows) will be clad in prefinished composite metal in a rectangular pattern. The same material and pattern is proposed for the east elevation minus any openings.

Mr. Lyall made a motion to approve the application as presented. Ms. Reynes seconded the motion. Ms. Gustavson, Mr. Gould, Mr. Lyall, Ms. Reynes and Ms. Austin voted aye. Mr. Rutledge voted no.

## **VI. Public Comments (None)**

## **VII. Discussion Items**

### **a. Huntersville Design Guidelines – Mel Price, WPA**

In an effort to improve their neighborhood, the Olde Huntersville Civic League created a strategic plan addressing eight goals, one of which is to enhance neighborhood marketability and incentivize quality single-family infill development that is compatible with the neighborhood and affordable. Ms. Shea, Senior Planner, stated that the city is trying to take some of the actions from their plan and incorporate them into plan Norfolk.

Olde Huntersville is made up of very narrow lots and the majority of the lots are 25 feet wide. The city hired Work Program Architects to look at the existing housing stock and to create a pattern book of house plans for homes to be built in Olde Huntersville. Having a pattern book will streamline the entire process for the homeowner or builder; it will be faster and economical. A new zoning district will be developed that will allow development on 25-foot lots. This is a pilot program that will be tested in Olde Huntersville first to see what the market does.

Photographs and drawings were presented for review. Ms. Price and Mr. James reviewed the Plan Book Program and Olde Huntersville's strategic plan goals. They studied the existing housing stock and received feedback from the civic league to create housing styles for the pattern book. Full plans, elevations and renderings will be presented for final review at a future meeting.

### **b. Riverview neighborhood signs – Chris Chambers, Public Works**

Drawings and photographs were presented for review. Mr. Chambers reported that after funding became available in 2014, they have worked closely with the Riverview Village Business Association to develop gateway signage and they studied many different options.

Mr. Dashiell, Consulting Engineers, became involved in November 2016. The initial desire was to have arch signage that would span the six lanes of Granby Street as you come off the bridge and at 39<sup>th</sup> Street as you come from downtown. However, after fieldwork was conducted, they ran into roadblocks due to underground utilities, street signs, lights, traffic signals, city right-of-way and state requirements. After considering alternate locations, they came up with two other areas in existing islands; one at 39<sup>th</sup> Street and one as you come off the Granby Street Bridge.

The signs will have a center mount arch that will span the majority of the roadway. In the center will be an open-framed structure that will allow for a pennant type flag. Materials include: brick base with precast cap, open steel structure powder-coated and black finish, stainless steel raised letters (backlit).

Ms. Gustavson stressed the importance of presenting to the civic league. Mr. Oliver, representing the Riverview Village Business Association, stated that he has talked with the civic league and they will see the proposal at their February meeting. He added that they hope this might help with traffic calming and that they would like to add some landscaping if the budget permits.

c. NEON District Wayfinding signage – Mel Price, WPA

Ms. Price presented the first conceptual drawings and noted they worked in collaboration with the Downtown Norfolk Council, Downtown Civic League and the NEON District Committee.

The objectives: Orient the first-time visitor and help them find parking; mark gateways into the NEON District; connect pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles between the institutions and the heart of the NEON District; work with local artists and artisans to create a wayfinding system unique to the NEON District

Things to avoid: Looking institutional or like a city or VDOT project; over-promising and under-delivering before the NEON District has filled-out; calling attention to private businesses; cluttering the sidewalks with additional poles and signs that make it hard to traverse already narrow sidewalks.

Final concepts:

- Sign type A: the corner of Duke and Grace Streets at D'ART Center; concept is a steel plate that bends around the building.

- Sign type B: (2) at Grace and Boush Streets and the Cofer site at Olney Road, will replace an existing no-parking and will be installed in available tree pit area, intended to be internally lit;
- Sign type C: (1) trapezoid sign at corner of Olney Avenue and Boush Street;
- Sign type D: revolving neon cube, at Greyhound Bus Station at corner of Granby Street and Brambleton Avenue, clean, prime and paint the white sculptural base and install new LED neon green down-lights;
- Sign type E: parking signs, (2) at Chrysler Museum, (3) at Harrison's Opera House and (1) at The PLOT, all internally illuminated parking signs (large signs to be seen at night from a distance; small signs placed at entrances to shared lots)
- Sign type F: sidewalk glass discs, (200 pieces) 6-inch diameter, made by the Chrysler Museum Perry Glass Studio Artists,

#### **VIII. New Business**

The Architectural Review Board calendar of meeting dates for 2017 was distributed. Ms. Gustavson noted that the second meeting in February (16<sup>th</sup>) is on Thursday due to the holiday.

#### **IX. Old Business**

Preservation Awards: Moving forward with plans. Mr. Lyall will provide a template letter to Ms. McBride. Mr. Glenn offered to purchase the plaques.

#### **X. Approval of the minutes: December 5, 2016 (Approved on consent)**

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dolores R. Cloud*

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Dolores R. Cloud, Deputy City Clerk/Stenographic Reporter